SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

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DEMS CALL ON REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP IN WASHINGTON FOR ACTION ON OUTSOURCING

LANSING—Michigan Senate Democrats today, along with U.S. Congressman John Dingell (D-MI 15), called upon the Republican leadership in Washington to take immediate action on proposals to level the playing field for the American manufacturing industry and end the outsourcing of American jobs. Democrats are demanding that Congress stand up to President Bush, force his Administration to stop criticizing the manufacturing industry and instead fight against the outsourcing of American jobs.

"This is a President who has said outsourcing is a good thing and nominated a man who sent jobs to China as his 'Manufacturing Czar,'" said Congressman Dingell. "Democrats have proposed a plan to stop outsourcing and level the playing field for the American manufacturing industry, but the vast majority of the rubber-stamp Republicans in Congress ignore our suggestions, choosing instead to give the President a free pass on his anti-worker agenda. This hostility towards working Americans must end."

Senate Democrats unveiled a package of resolutions that call upon Congress to address the various federally controlled issues associated with outsourcing. They referred to their package as "No Outsourcing Wanted," or "N.O.W."

"Michigan Senate Democrats have offered plans to help outsourced workers and combat the outsourcing crisis at the state level," said Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor). "Today, we are publicly challenging President Bush and Congressional Republicans to show us their plan."

The Democrats want to see movement on the following federal legislation intended to help alleviate the outsourcing crisis:

• Chief Trade Prosecutor: A Resolution calling on Congress to support Stabenow's S. 817, a bi-partisan bill that creates a Chief Trade Prosecutor within the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to investigate and prosecute unfair trade activity. Congressman Sander Levin is a cosponsor of the companion bill in the House of Representatives.

- End Federal Tax Breaks for Outsourcers: A Resolution urging members of Congress to support S. 196, the "Runaway Companies" bill, introduced by Sen. Byron Dorgan and cosponsored by Sen. Stabenow. S. 196 would shut a tax loophole that rewards U.S. companies that move U.S. manufacturing jobs overseas.
- Tariff equity: A resolution to support HR 4808, sponsored by Congressman Dale Kildee, which would prohibit the importation of motor vehicles of the People's Republic of China until the tariff rates that China imposes on motor vehicles of the United States are equal to the rates of duty applicable to motor vehicles of the People's Republic of China under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.
- **Fight Currency Manipulation:** A resolution to support HR 3157, sponsored by Congressman Dingell, which requires the Secretary of Commerce to analyze the impact of currency manipulation on the U.S. manufacturing sector and on U.S. monetary policy and put forth remedies to address these problems, including compensation from the country for damages incurred by U.S. manufactures.
- **No taxpayer-funded outsourcing**: A resolution to support HR 3406, The U.S. Workers Protection Act sponsored by Congressman Dingell would prevent U.S. taxpayer dollars from being used to outsource federal or state work to other countries.

"Senate Democrats are NOT going to sit on the sidelines as Michigan families suffer job loss and financial hardship due to neglect from the Republican-controlled Congress and the White House," Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) said. "We must keep jobs in Michigan to protect Michigan's economic future, and we urge President Bush and his Republican colleagues in Congress to contribute to that effort."

At the state level, Senate Democrats recently introduced legislation to both help outsourced workers and to hold corporations who outsource accountable for their actions. Michigan Democrats are doing what they can to manage outsourcing and its affects at the state level, but federal action is necessary to solve the problem. Michigan Democrats in Congress have proposed bill after bill, but the Republican-controlled Congress has thus far refused to address the issue. Today, Democrats are calling on Congress to pick up where the state legislation leaves off.

"Why hasn't President Bush done away with the manipulation of currency by China and Japan and the tax incentives that promote outsourcing jobs in Michigan?" asked Sen. Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor). "Our constituents understand that the failure of President Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress to do something about the unfair trade practices is directly what is causing our economic problems here in the state of Michigan."